

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Help Fight Hunger in Your District

Co-Sponsor Legislation to Increase Food Donations by Businesses

November 5, 2013

Dear Colleague:

We have introduced legislation, H.R. 2945, to expand and make permanent an important tax incentive for small businesses, farmers, and ranchers to donate food inventory to charity.

With an increase in demand for emergency food assistance, food banks have reported a higher demand for food that is expected to remain high as food prices and energy costs continue to rise, and should unemployment continue at its current levels. Unfortunately, decreased donations and funding resources have left food banks and the struggling Americans they serve facing a “perfect storm” of rising need and diminished resources. Hunger is increasing in the United States at the same time that the USDA estimates that more than 70 billion pounds of food each year is being thrown away and filling landfills. We can do better.

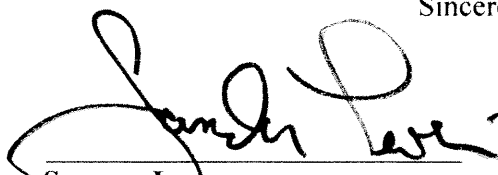
Generally, businesses donating food inventory to charity are eligible to take a heightened charitable tax deduction for the donated food (limited to 10% of the business’s income). Unfortunately, the eligibility of businesses that are not C corporations, including farmers and ranchers, is set to expire in 2013. The restaurant industry alone has increased food donation by 137% in pounds of food donated as a result of this critical tax provision. Permanently extending this deduction for contributions of food inventory to ALL business taxpayers provides needed certainty and is a necessary step in the continued fight against hunger in America.

In addition, the legislation would increase the cap of allowable charitable contributions from 10% of income to 15%. Currently, many businesses are capped at the amount they donate due to the limit on their charitable deduction. Increasing the cap will encourage more donations from those taxpayers at a time when the need is particularly acute.

Providing additional incentives for farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and restaurateurs to donate wholesome food for hungry Americans is absolutely crucial, and our legislation will do just that. **Please join us in co-sponsoring H.R. 2945.**

For more information or to co-sponsor, please contact Alan Lee with Rep. Levin at alan.lee@mail.house.gov (5-4961) or Lori Prater with Rep. Gerlach at lori.prater@mail.house.gov (5-4315).

Sincerely,



SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress



JIM GERLACH
Member of Congress